

## NEW YORK MASONS OPEN GRAND LODGE FOR 3-DAY SESSION

They Cheer a Belgian Girl  
Who Leads a Patriotic  
Demonstration.

In the Masonic Temple at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon the Grand Lodge, F. and A. M., of the State of New York, assembled for its three day session at the sound of the gavel of Grand Master Thomas Penney. Official business was suspended to enable Miss Suzanne Silvercroix, a Belgian girl, to address the Masters of the lodges of the State. Miss Silvercroix is the daughter of a prominent Belgian Minister. Under the chairmanship of Past Grand Master S. Nelson Sawyer, a friend of the family, the pretty eighteen-year-old lass from the stricken kingdom was permitted to view the fittings of the sanctum sanctorum. Speaking in perfect English, which she has mastered in less than two years of study in her native land, Miss Silvercroix appealed to the Grand Lodge "to first help America all you can, then assist Belgium." The Masons rose to their feet and applauded this sentiment.

After looking over a discouraging situation on the third floor, as it appeared to two innocent members of The Evening World staff who didn't have the password, they concluded to tackle some point of less resistance. They would go directly to the Grand Secretary's office, even though it was on the seventeenth floor. His assistant, Mr. Belknap, told them to get in touch with his chief, Robert Judson Kenworthy. As an afterthought, he added that Mr. Kenworthy was probably behind the tiled door on the third floor.

### THE PARK ROW PILGRIMS DON'T GET IN.

Mr. Belknap was right. After waiting until David E. Peugeot of Buffalo, a member of the Antiquities Committee, had related to Grand Tyler McElroy what listened very much like "the hen crossing the road" yarn, the Grand Tyler was asked if he cared whether the wanderers from Park Row passed within. Did he care? Not any more than as if he lost the precious golden medal he carried with honor on his breast. The Grand Tyler won a battle without firing a shot, while both sides required gracefully.

After the meeting had been in session two hours the hall of the third floor outside the Grand Lodge room was thick with people. It resembled an afternoon crowd at Washington square lying in wait for an avenue

## Virile Leaders of the Masonic Order in New York Now Meeting in State Grand Lodge in This City



bus. Every little while a belated Mason would clamber out of the elevator and approach the entrance with as much zeal as the National City Bank would subscribe to \$100,000 worth of Liberty bonds.

### SOME OF THE DIGNITARIES MET ON THE THIRD FLOOR.

The first Mason to emerge from the room was Col. John A. Vrooman of Horkner, Dean of the Past Grand Masters of the State. He is a close friend of Col. Roosevelt, Major Gen. Leonard Wood and former Chief of Staff, Hugh L. Scott.

After buttonholing Grand Secretary Robert Judson Kenworthy of Brooklyn, who is a member of more committees than he can shake a stick at, the reporters elicited the information that 50 United States Senators and 200 representatives in Congress are members of the fraternity.

Thomas Penney, the Grand Master, who has a pleasant word for every one, firmly declared at least six times during an interview with him "that if you leave the 'e' out of my name I'll make it hot for you."

William Sherer, who, besides being a Past Grand Master, also serves on the Foreign Correspondence Committee, said he could produce no personal epistles from Kaiser Bill, but was seriously contemplating sending to the Emperor, through the kindness of Erasmus C. Knight, a brother member of the G. L., soon to go "over there," a little "package" to the daddy of the Crown Prince. Mr. Knight, together with another member of the Grand Lodge, will

supervise Masonic relief to the American "doddies" who possess the sheepskin.

A blockade had formed in the middle of the Grand Secretary's office, and upon edging closer the speaker was found to be Christopher Columbus Mollenhauer. At his right was J. V. Vibbard, closely flanked by Dr. Oscar F. R. Freder, Dean of the Cathedral at Garden City, L. L. Mr. Mollenhauer explained later that he had the moral right to compel Mr. Vibbard to listen to the speaker's version of how he was christened "Christopher Columbus Mollenhauer."

Mr. Vibbard, by his own voluntary confession, admitted he was freighted agent for the New York Central, and consequently was compelled to listen patiently. The Dean of the Long

Island Cathedral explained that he had never before posed for a newspaper artist, but reluctantly admitted having done some "posers" during his usual Sabbath addresses.

A commotion ensued at this time, and three members furiously brought Harold E. Lippincott of No. 32 Nassau Street, who, aside from being Judge Advocate of the Grand Lodge, does not deny that he is the most distinguished jurist that ever addressed the Chair, to be interviewed. Upon the counsel of Dr. McIntyre, fellow Mason and true friend, he refused to submit himself on any subject.

George F. Jackson, Deputy Grand Master, explained that all up-State members would be given a chance to see a real bull game before they returned to their native heaths.

## GOVERNOR SIGNS DOCK BILL AS AID TO WAR SHIPPING

Another Gives City Title to  
Lands Under Water Off  
Coney Island.

ALBANY, May 8.—Several New York City bills became laws today, with the signature of the Governor. One, by Assemblyman McElligott, prompted by war conditions, gives the Dock Commissioner the right to remove without delay any obstruction or incumbrance on the piers or wharves of steamboat lines or railroad companies.

Under the old law the Commissioner could not take such obstruction from the piers unless the occupants made a written request for its removal.

Another wharf bill, introduced by Senator Wagner, transfers from the Dock Commissioner to the Borough President the control of grading and paving of marginal wharves and streets.

Senator Lawson's bill abolishing the Brooklyn Grade Crossing Commission and giving the Board of Estimate the power to wind up its affairs was signed by the Governor, as was Assemblyman Curley's bill, which will permit the city to issue notes in anticipation of tax levies to the amount of four-fifths of the total amount of corporate stock or serial bonds to be issued. Under the old law

this limit was one-half the corporate stock issue.

Other New York City bills approved were:

Assemblyman Brackley's, permitting the Land Office Commissioners, that New York may provide for the protection of public and private beaches on the Atlantic Ocean, to release to the city the State's title to lands under water between the high water line and the bulkhead line between the westernmost line of Coney Island to the westerly boundary of Nassau County.

Assemblyman McDonald's bills, increasing from twenty-nine to thirty-five years the maximum age of applicants for positions as firemen and patrolmen during the war, to fill the vacancies on the eligible list caused by the draft.

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## The New York World Sets the Pace